US PTO Cust. No. 25280 Case No. 5198E

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Structure (I) or Structure (II):

(I) (II)
$$R_1 \xrightarrow{R} Q \xrightarrow{O} Q \xrightarrow{R} R_4 \qquad \text{or} \qquad R_1 \xrightarrow{R} Q \xrightarrow{O} Q \xrightarrow{R} R_4$$

wherein R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl groups containing 1-4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups, chlorine, and fluorine; R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups containing 1-4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups, and fluorine; with the proviso that only one of R_1 and R_2 is fluorine, only one of R_3 and R_4 is fluorine, and wherein at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is a lower alkyl group.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of bis(4-fluoro-3-methylbenzylidene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-4-methylbenzylidene)-sorbitol; bis(4-fluoro-2,3-dimethylbenzylidene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-2,4-dimethylbenzyl-idene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-4-methoxy-benzylidene)sorbitol; and bis(2,4-difluoro-3-methylbenzylidene)sorbitol.